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2. (Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said left and right lateral extensions comprise an inside edge, an outside edge, an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein said inside edge joins said centralized vertical extension to form a substantially horizontal plane.
  3. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface forms an angle of about 0 to 60 degrees below said substantially horizontal plane.
  4. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein the length of said inside edge is less than the length of said outside edge.
  5. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said inside edge has a greater thickness than said outside edge.
  6. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface is barbed.

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7. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, further comprising a recess wherein said upper surface joins said centralized vertical extension.
  8. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 21, further comprising a flexible bladder.
  9. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said flexible bladder comprises a material enclosing an internal cavity.
  10. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said internal cavity is empty.
  11. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said material comprises a thin flexible biocompatible material.
  12. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said material further comprises a semi-permeable material.
  13. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

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14. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 13,  
wherein said biocompatible fluid is a hydrogel.
15. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9,  
wherein said material further comprises an impermeable material.
16. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9,  
wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.
17. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1,  
wherein said centralized vertical extension is of a shape selected  
from the group consisting of a trapezoid, circular and curved.
18. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1,  
wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device is made from a  
material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible  
material, a bioactive material, and a bioresorbable material.
19. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 19,  
wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises a  
biocompatible fiber mesh.

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20. The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 23,  
wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises a  
material selected from the group consisting of: expandable  
polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE); a material to facilitate  
regeneration of disc tissue; and a hygroscopic material.

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21. (New) A therapeutic or prophylactic device for treating a spinal disc annulus having an aperture, the device comprising a biocompatible material for placement in and across the aperture such that said material forms a bridge providing a platform for a traverse of fibroblasts or other normal cells of repair existing in and around the various layers of the disc annulus.

22. (New) The therapeutic or prophylactic device of claim 21, further comprising means for fixating said device in or to the annulus of a patient.

Entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct numerous informalities, spelling and grammatical errors. Accordingly, no new matter is entered by amendment.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW,  
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By: 

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Dated: June 26, 2003

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